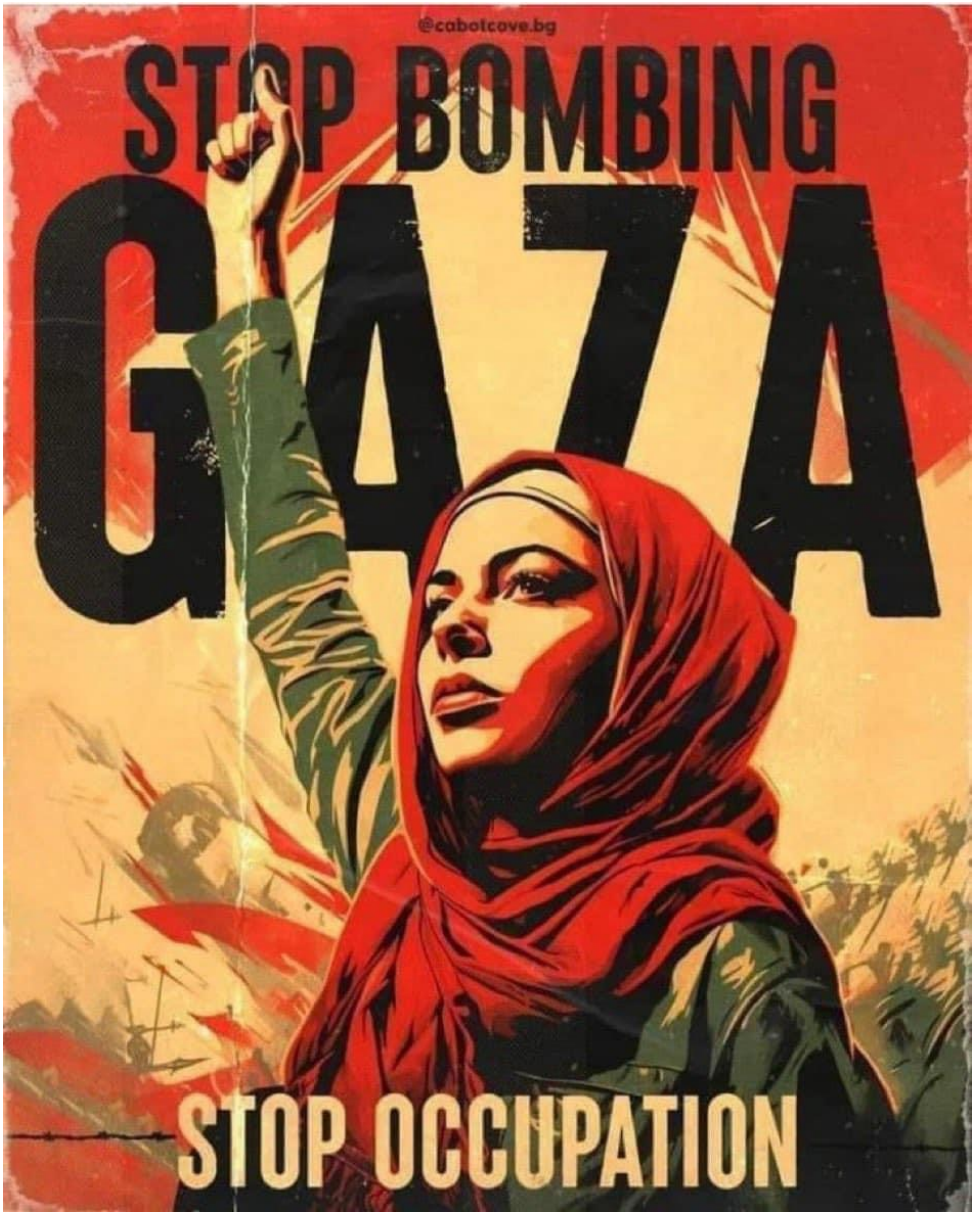
Strike Hokey-Cokey - In or Out?

Remembering Agnes Henry on International Working Women's Day

Meanwhile in Ballymena: Gaston Fights the 'Tree Border'!

BLACK STAR

ISRAEL IS A TERRORIST STATE!



The ongoing atrocities committed by the state of Israel continue unabated - aided and abetted by governments including those of the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom. At best making worthless mealy mouthed platitudes while the slaughter continues.

It is undeniable that there is out and out genocide being committed in Gaza. From the Hamas attack on the 7th October up until 12.30pm on the 12th of March at least 1,139 Israelis are dead and at least a further 8,730 injured. In Gaza in the same period at least 31,184 people have been killed alongside at least another 72,889 injured. In the West Bank at least 427 have been killed along with over 4650 injured. The toll increases every hour.

In the meantime Sinn Fein politicians still talk solidarity while planning on shaking hands with the supporters of genocide in the USA on Saint Patrick's Day. How anyone can still entertain the lie that this is a party of the left any longer?

We reiterate the demand for an end to the genocide being carried out by the state of Israel. In comparison with the numerous other conflicts around the world the number of civilians being slaughtered is staggering. However the twin monstrosities of capital and state deliver war, terror, poverty, death and destruction across the globe.

Ultimately victory does not lie with the victory of one state over another as all states contain the germ of imperialism and the potential for genocidal slaughter in their dna. We need a global revolution.

EVERY STATE IS A TERRORIST STATE!

Meanwhile... in Ballymena, Free the Tree!

Local Traditional Unionist Voice councillor here, Timothy Gaston has been in action recently on behalf of the environment.

Despite being in a party whose Fuhrer, Jim Allister, is always keen to stress its climate change scepticism, young Gaston (not to be confused with a Beauty and the Beast character), has stood up for the trees. He declared recently that there is a de facto 'tree border' now between Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as the Irish Sea border.

Apparently, this is because the Woodland Trust's 'free trees' scheme is not available here in the North anymore. As Gaston says (I shit you not) - 'trees which have travelled to and fro across the Irish Sea for centuries are now banned'. Nae wonder less than half the local population turned out to vote these wankers in the last year.

Never Forget!

In March 2022, P&O ferries sacked almost 800 workers online, including at Larne port, and replaced them with agency staff on poorer pay and conditions. Two years on no-one has been held to account.

This is in spite of all the political parties here and in Britain warning of dire consequences for the company and its CEO, Peter Hebblethwaite. A wall of silence descended as the workers were forced to sign non-disclosure agreements as part of their redundancy settlement.

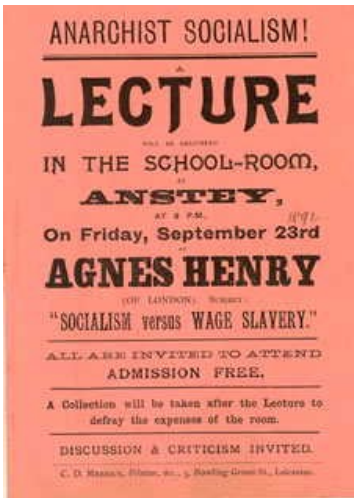
Hebblethwaite was forced to pull out of a maritime industry event in Seattle last month and is up for the 'Worst Boss in the World' competition this year against Irish-born Quantas Airlines boss, Alan Joyce.

Keep the Boycott Alive!

P&O's Larne-Cairnryan service continues as normal and people have undoubtedly forgotten what happened. And it's not like we haven't seen shots continually of Larne port with lorries rolling off to a droning report about the Windsor Framework, green and red corridors, and friction-free east-west trade. Yet in all of those pieces, no-one seemed to be bothered to ask what actually happened to the workers. Maybe that annoying prick mouthpiece for the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium, Aodhán Connolly, was right when he said the disruption to trade was 'manageable' and temporary.

BOYCOTT P&O

Agnes Henry (1850-1915)


ANARCHIST SOCIALISM!

LECTURE

IN THE SCHOOL-ROOM,

ANSTEY,

On Friday, September 23rd

AGNES HENRY

"SOCIALISM versus WAGE SLAVERY."

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

ADMISSION FREE.

A Collection will be taken after the Lecture to defray the expenses of the room.

DISCUSSION & CRITICISM INVITED.

Born apparently in Tipperary, Agnes Henry (1850-1915) is a much neglected anarchist militant. She is mostly associated with the exiled French anarchist and communard, Louise Michel (1830-1905), and her propagandist and educational endeavours in London. Henry acted as interpreter for Michel at public meetings and taught in the International School. She also contributed to *Freedom* for over a decade in the late 1880s and early 1890s and was an active organiser and speaker for anarchist communist ideas across Britain in the same period.

In the later 1890s, she collaborated with Carl Quinn in an attempt to create a new organisation called 'Associated Anarchists' and worked on their nascent newspaper, the *Alarm*, but by 1897 inspired by the rising women's suffrage struggle, she defected to the Independent Labour Party, though still claiming anarchist communist ideas. She remained personally close with a great many anarchists and spoke against Malatesta's detention in 1912, having been a long-time friend and comrade of the Italian militant.

Writing in *Freedom* in March 1891 about women under socialism, we get a sense of her ideas and perhaps the times they were conceived in:

'Whether a women's work is in the home, in the old-fashioned established way - so long as she is a worker and not an indulged, useless member of the household - or outside the home, she is a bread-winner, in the sense of being a contributor to the needs of social life, as truly as any man, and consequently the only point of real difference in her position in a socialist society would be that man would recognise her right, equally with his own, to claim a just share of those things needful to her full, healthy and happy existence'.

Hokey-Cokey strikes

At the risk not only of repeating ourselves but boring the arses off our readers, the news came for a second time of the cancellation of strikes by transport workers here scheduled for 27-29 February. This followed the cancellation of the previous wave of strikes set for 15 February, remember, to allow the politicians some breathing space.

That crucial pause went on a while so Unite, the GMB and SIPTU proposed renewed action with the 72 hour strike that never was. The improved pay offer has been put out to ballot but it seems a hotch-potch to match the hokey-cokey nature of the union bosses' handling of the dispute. Not wishing to break with the goodwill that exists among them for the resurrected government at Stormont, it seems the mood is to wrap up the playful militancy for this year and maybe get antsy again when negotiations begin on next year's pay.

The workers themselves, where they have been consulted, must be pissed off at the brinkmanship and backroom dealing. As always, it is in the nature of reformist trade unions, unable as they are unwilling to confront capitalism.

Below we have an update from a public transport worker.

Public Transport Workers Overwhelmingly Reject 'Final' Offer.

Translink staff have voted overwhelmingly to reject the company's 'final' offer of 5% plus an unconsolidated lump sum of 5%. This came after the previous 'final' offer of just the 5%.

Three days of strike action were called off to allow voting on this 'improved' offer. Now, rather than harness the impetus and momentum of the huge rejection and reinstate the strike action, the Unions have announced their intention to 'enter fresh talks with management' . No doubt this will dissipate momentum, further run down the Unions strike mandate, and allow the company to get through some potentially effective strike dates (Six Nations rugby and Saint Patrick's Day for example) with no trouble.

The company are once again claiming that they simply have no money in their coffers to increase the offer. Workers should not accept this logic, the company balancing its books should not be our concern. Our only concern? The refusal to accept a falling real-terms standard of living under any circumstances.

Education Workers: Vote No! Solidarity is Strength!

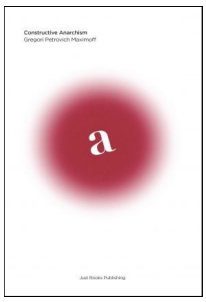
While teachers are currently balloting on a pay offer that is being welcomed as a 'huge step forward' by the Union leadership college lecturers look set to reject an offer which see the gap between Further Education Lecturers and Teachers pay widening substantially.

The UCU have described the 5% pay offer and non-consolidated pro rata £1,500 payment an insult. An insult added to the injury of the previous two years imposed 1% 'awards'.

Clearly government is attempting to divide (not only) education workers who were engaged in increasingly co-ordinated industrial action. Workers need to continue to stand together to ensure meaningful pay rises for everyone across the education industry - and beyond. All of us should be voting no!

Just Books Publishing

Just Books Publishing, set up by the Just Books Collective, has so far published its first two titles.



The first is a reprint of Gregori Maximoff's *Constructive Anarchism*, to mark the 100th year of existence of the International Workers Association (IWA) the Anarcho-Syndicalist international founded in Berlin in 1922.

isbn 9781739723705

£11.99

The second title, now with a new cover, is Nick Heath's *The Idea. Anarchist Communism: Past, Present and Future* - a welcome and new comprehensive work on anarchist communism, this book seeks to rehabilitate the current of anarchist-communism. To make it better known and understood.

...a good substantial book, and much needed. Lucidly written, it provides a rich brew of engaging discussions of the 'Idea' (anarchist communism as a political philosophy), interesting vignettes of many individual anarchists, and a great historical account of the many anarchist communist organisations over the past 150 years... (Brian Morris on *The Idea)*

isbn 9781739723712

£15.00

Available from:

https://organiseanarchistsireland.com/shop/

Get Involved: Help Build A Working Class Alternative.

ORGANISE!

FRIENDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION · AMIGOS DE LA ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LAS Y LOS TRABAJADORES

WWW.ORGANISEANARCHISTSIRELAND.COM

Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland which is affiliated to the International Worker's Association as 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, and particularly the history and tradition of struggle epitomised by the IWA - the anarcho-syndicalist international. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier…

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in Belfast, Cork, Derry, Lisburn, Newtownabbey and Portadown and are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at https://organiseanarchistsireland.com and send an email to:

organiseasi@gmail.com